

**REMARKS**

Applicant concurrently files herewith a petition and fee for a three (3) month extension of time.

Claims 1-4, 10-13, 19, and 20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 6-8 and 15-17 have been canceled in the interest of expediting prosecution. Claims 5, 9, 14, and 18 were previously canceled.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, and claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 15. In the final rejection, claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ozawa in view of Blackham and also over Yoshizawa et al. in view of Blackham, et al. Insofar as they may be deemed to apply to the above claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The final rejection did not comply with the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, and so was deficient. MPEP §706.02(j) requires that the Office Action must explain why one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to combine the references relied upon for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103. This was not done in the final rejection. Accordingly, the rejection is insufficient.

The claimed invention distinguishes patentably over the combination of references. In exemplary embodiments of the invention, a reference floating point data is determined from a plurality of inputted or received floating point data, and the differences are obtained between the values of the exponent parts of the inputted or received floating point data which are not

determined as the reference floating point data and a value of an exponent part of the reference floating point data. A mantissa part of each of the plurality of floating point data is shifted by the difference obtained for the corresponding floating point data, and a predetermined number of bits of each shifted mantissa part is extracted as fixed point data. In extracting the predetermined number of bits, when an overflow occurs in extracted bits, the extracted bits are accepted as representing the maximum value.

In the apparatuses of Ozawa and Yoshizawa, all the mantissas are converted to integers, while maintaining the relative magnitudes of the respective floating point numbers.

Blackham discloses a process in which, when a floating point number is shifted and an overflow occurs, the output is clipped to the maximum value. The extracted bits themselves are not accepted as representing the maximum value. Instead, a further step of clipping the output to a preset maximum value is involved.

Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art wanting to achieve the results of the claimed invention would not combine Blackham with either Ozawa or Yoshizawa, since Blackham does something unrelated to the claimed invention. Further, even if Blackham were combined with Ozawa or with Yoshizawa, the combination would not lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed invention, since it would result in clipping the output to a preset maximum value, rather than accepting the extracted bits as representing the maximum value.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 10-13, 19, and 20, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would

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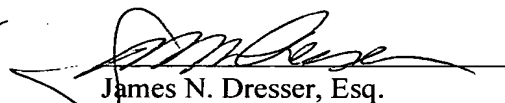
be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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